



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Pres: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Jan. 15)

January, 1971  
Vol. 17, No. 7

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Jeff Foott will give a slide presentation showing various aspects of the sea otter's natural history.

Next Field Trip: Sunday, January 10. A trip to the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park at Coloma, followed by birding along the American River. Meet at the Copper Penny parking lot, Sun Valley, 8:45 - 9 a.m. to form car pools, or be at Coloma about 11:30 a.m.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, January 13, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley Gym. Robert Fultz presents "Acadian Reflections".

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At our first program in 1971 we will look at the sea otter, the animal which has made such a dramatic comeback from near-extinction along the California coast, and which many of us have seen off Monterey County shores. Jeff Foott, who is currently making a photographic study of marine mammals and birds, will show slides of the life of the sea otter as well as many pictures of other mammals and shore birds. The meeting will be in our usual place, Sun Valley Room B, on the lower Mall.

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Since some members have asked to take Audubon field trips to historical places as well as birding places, we have scheduled a dandy one for the following Sunday, January 10th. Now is your chance to visit the State Historic Park at Coloma, where gold was discovered a few years back. Come rain or shine, we're going - surely it won't be raining inside the museum at the Marshall Gold Discovery site!

Chris Nelson, chief instigator of the trip says:

"We will form car pools at the Copper Penny parking lot at Sun Valley between 8:45 & 9 a.m. on the 10th. For those who have never visited the Coloma Gold Discovery site, here is a good opportunity to go through the State's great historic museum. A staff historian will put on a special program for our group. Birding along the American River will also be done, if the weather permits.

the game list, as a step towards eventually being on the protected list. Since a permit is now required to hunt the lions, some data can be obtained from successful hunters.

The current epidemic of leptospirosis, which is killing off some of the sea lions, is nothing new - there was a similar epidemic in 1947. Perhaps it is nature's way of thinning out sea lions.

Consider this: 211 deer were killed by cars in Contra Costa County in November, 1969.

Controlled fire can be beneficial. Mr. Elliott told of a survey made on the Mines Road (back of Livermore). No deer were seen in a test area in September, but after controlled burning removed the chaparral and permitted grasses to grow there were 39 deer in the same area in a November survey.

The importance of feral dogs (pets that have gone wild) was stressed. As many as 50% of the fawns in some areas are killed by dog packs. (A subsequent article in the S.F. paper on Dec. 13 indicated that the wild dog is a problem in nearly all parklands and water districts in the Bay Area.)

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Frank Beyer reported that the field trip to Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 21 attracted ten members. Since there were already two other Audubon groups there, our group headed west to Sacramento National Refuge near Willows and spotted about 80 species of birds, including European Widgeon. No raindrops fell on the heads.

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At this writing nobody knows what the weather for our Christmas Count will be on Dec. 26th. But it can't be any worse than we would have had on the originally planned date, Dec. 20th, when it was cold and wet and snow on the mountains and miserable everywhere. (P.S. The 26th was bad!)

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#### Observations:

Carol and Stuart Purcell report seeing about 200 Blue Heron on the San Felipe Ranch, 10 miles west of Merced, on Nov. 13.

Lynn Farrar relays the news that Tom Schulenberg spotted four gnatcatchers at Lafayette Reservoir on Nov. 11, a very late time of the year for gnats and gnatcatchers to be around.

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#### Special Note:

At this writing an oil strike is threatened. Should such a strike take place at the Phillip's Avon Refinery, where your Editor works, it will mean that he will have to live in the refinery for the duration and will not be able to get out your next bulletin, if the strike goes beyond mid-January. Perhaps your officers will get out meeting notices, but pardon any delay!

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#### New Members:

At our invitation, the following doctors have joined National Audubon and indicated alliance with Mt. Diablo Audubon. We greet:

Howard E. Baughman, M.D. 360 Oak Grove Road, Concord  
 James E. Bostwick, M.D. 1479 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek  
 N. R. Bothereau, M.D. 975 Hough Avenue, Lafayette

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Ed Mize, Editor .. 1255 Mt. Diablo St. Concord, Ca. 94520 .. Phone 686-1341



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WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Pres: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
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Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: Feb. 16)

February, 1971  
Vol. 17, No. 8

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
We will see a film on New Zealand birds.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m. Coyote Hills Regional  
Park.

Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
John Bulger will show a 'Scandinavian Saga'.

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At our next meeting we will be transported to New Zealand to see some of the birds ... maybe a few Keas, Crested Grebes, New Zealand Scaups, Spur-winged Plovers ... who knows? Arrangements have been made to show a movie from the Kalamazoo Nature Center, sponsored by Michigan State. If the film gets here, we should be in for an unusual evening.

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\* It's back to Coyote Hills Regional Park on Saturday, Feb. 6, to look at the birds of the salt ponds, inland marshes, and grasslands. It will be a fairly level walk. Leader will probably be Frank Beyer.

*great trip!*

To get there: Run down the Nimitz Freeway and turn off at Jarvis Road. Run west to the signal at Newark Blvd, where you turn right, go over the railroad tracks, and continue a mile to Patterson Ranch Road. Turn left and run into the park. We will meet about 9:30.

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Det här är mycket vackert - that's Swedish for 'This is very beautiful' - and it will surely apply to the next Audubon Wildlife Tour, Wednesday, Feb. 10 at DVC Gym at 8 p.m., when John Bulger will show his 'Scandinavian Saga'. It promises an "unmatched scenic beauty" with a variety of birds and animals in the different Scandinavian countries. As they say in Stockholm, "Det är mycket bra" (It is very good).

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If you have ever had the feeling that you oughta see otters, you could have seen 'em at our January meeting. As Pres. Chris Nelson said, "Seldom have we seen such natural history in depth", as young Jeff Foott showed us otters in every mood and pose - even showing us that the male otter bites the lady otter's nose during the courtship. (OUCH! Take it easy, Buster!) In addition, there were many outstanding pictures of ocean creatures and birds, including Pigeon Guillemots, with their brilliant red feet and mouth. We learned from Foott that Monterey Bay is a natural barrier to the migration of the otters northward, because they need a rocky bottom and not the sandy shores of Monterey Bay.

At this meeting we voted to help pay for the Briones Park Wildflower kits that will be placed in the different libraries in the county. The kits are complete and attractive and will be well used once the word gets out that they are available.

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Robert Fultz' Screen Tour, "Acadian Reflections", was heralded as being 'a different kind of film program for Audubon audiences'. Brother, it was! By using special effects photography, he created psychedelic effects from the use of strong colors and natural motion - interesting, but a little hard on old eyes like mine. The portion on Acadian National Park in Maine was typical beautiful Audubon film: crashing surfs, rocky shores, gulls, starfish, etc. A rather unusual evening.

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I have not yet received the Christmas Count tally sheet, but Lynn Farrar has this to say about the Count:

"Our 17th consecutive Christmas Count was held Dec. 26 and from my standpoint was a real success. The count for the day was 118, with 2 additional for the period. Outstanding were: Lewis Woodpecker, Sage Sparrow, Whistling Swan, Spotted Sandpiper, Brown Creeper, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Weatherwise the day started out mediocre and progressively worsened, and the afternoon was almost ghastly. Nevertheless, we had 41 birders out in several parties, by far the greatest response in years and an indication of our potential. We hit many really tough birds while missing more common ones. Every party in the field turned up birds no other party found, thus showing what could be done if we had enough people and leaders. My heartiest thanks to all who participated. And special thanks to Virginia and Leo Schaefer, who endured our enjoyable evening potluck."

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#### Observations:

It was a cold night, the night of our January meeting, and Chris Nelson slyly asked, "Has anyone seen a Snowy Owl recently?" By Golly, Harry Adamson jumped up and said that he had seen one a week before on Vancouver Island, along with 30 Oldsquaws (no young ones?), Harlequin Ducks, and 3 Bald Eagles.

On the afternoon of January 15th there was a flock of about 200 White Pelicans swirling above the Avon Refinery where I work. I haven't seen any down there for about ten years, so the recent show kept me from working for about 15 minutes.

Russ Epley sent in some of his recent observations:

Dec. 15, Scott Road, Sacramento

Prairie Falcon, Rough-legged Hawk, many Lewis Woodpeckers, many Lark Sparrows.

Jan. 4, Point Reyes

Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Nuthatches in Bishop Pines  
(continued)

Young Tom Schulenberg sends these notes:

"At least four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appear to be wintering in the brush near Lafayette Reservoir.

"I saw a Slate-colored Junco in Bollinger Canyon on Dec. 19.

"There were 8 Hooded Mergansers (one male) on Lafayette Reservoir on Dec. 22.

"On Dec. 29, at the east end of the Dumbarton Bridge, Bob Rodrigues of Hayward and I watched a first-year Franklin's Gull and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Both of these birds had first been found two days earlier on the Hayward-Fremont (Ohlone Audubon) Christmas Count; the sparrow is about the 8th record for Northern California of this species. Both birds were very well photographed by Bob.

→ "For some time there has been an Oldsquaw at the south end of Berkeley Aquatic Park, where you can find the flock of Pintails wintering at the Park. They are usually found on the second (and last) pond past (south of) the main lagoon, and one should be able to find a beautiful drake Mallard-Pintail hybrid."

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According to Tom, Cocoa (Florida) and Freeport (Texas) led the Christmas Count derby with 205 species. San Diego was a poor third with 192. Other interesting ones: Point Reyes about 191, Monterey 180, Oakland 170, and Hayward-Fremont 167.

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We greet our newest members, who have joined National Audubon and us:  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bowers, 1150 St. Francis Drive, Concord 94520  
Mrs. E. Wallace Anderson, 19 Richelle Court, Lafayette 94549  
Vivian Wehrli, P.O. Box 14466, Long Beach, 90814

.....

At the January meeting Chris Nelson passed the word along that our Membership Chairman, Ed Eichstedt, was away with his bride, the former Edna Williams.

Chris also brought a letter from the Howard McPhersons, who have migrated to Hawaii to be near family and have resigned from our group.

The papers say that Pete Veitch has been selected for the Grand Jury ... so watch yourself!

Frank Boyer took part in the annual 'Benicia Christmas Count', and Tom Schulenberg helped out with the Hayward-Fremont Count.

Ann Cavanagh and Joan Mize explored Bollinger Canyon recently. They forgot to turn off the lights used in a fog and came back to the car to find a dead battery. While waiting a couple of hours for AAA assistance, the girls had time to watch the Bluebirds and hawks.

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Many Mt. Diablo Auduboners attended a meeting of the Park Council/Sierra Club in Concord on Jan. 14th to hear Congressman Waldie speak to the overflow audience about conservation bills in Congress and to answer several dozen questions with ease. Waldie made it clear that he would not vote for any bill in which there was the slightest chance of harm to the environment.

.....

Ed Mize, Editor..1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 94520..Phone: 686-1341



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Pres: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
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(Next Deadline: March 16)

March, 1971  
Vol. 17, No. 9

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Josh Barkin will answer the question, "What Do You Really Know About Insects?".

Next Field Trip: Saturday, March 6. Bodega Bay. Leader: Harry Couden  
(Phone: 934-8873). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at The Tides Restaurant.

Next Screen Tour: Monday, March 8, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
Charles Stine explores the 'Land of the Drowned River' (the east shore of Chesapeake Bay).

.....

At our March 4th meeting it looks like Josh Barkin will bug us with a talk on insects. Josh, Naturalist for the East Bay Regional Parks, is in his second term as President of Golden Gate Audubon. He is a good speaker and knows his entomology ... so come and hear him.

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A trip has been scheduled to Bodega Bay, with Harry Couden as leader. The last time we scheduled one there was in 1962, but it just happened that we picked the week of the big Columbus Day storm and our leader, Dick Beitzel, awoke to find a river of water running through his house. That trip, for some reason, was cancelled. Let us hope that a flood doesn't wash out our trip this time. *Beautiful weather - good birding.*

Harry and Dorothy Couden scouted this current trip on the recent long weekend and give these instructions:

"Meet Saturday, March 6th, at 9:30 a.m. at the wharfside of The Tides Restaurant, the middle of a large fishing and small shopping center in the town of Bodega Bay. From Walnut Creek we took two hours non-stop to go through Petaluma the 87 miles to Bodega Bay."

(note: Don't let Alfred Hitchcock's film, 'The Birds', filmed at Bodega Bay, turn you away!)

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The final Audubon Wildlife Hour of the season will be shown the following day - Monday, the 8th of March - at 8 p.m. in the DVC Gym. Charles Stino will show his 'Land of the Drowned River', which deals with the Delmarva (Delaware/Maryland/Virginia) on the east side of Chesapeake Bay. We will see scenes along the Pocomoke River and on Assateague Island and the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge. There will be the usual display of birds and animals of the area along with some scenery.

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At our February meeting Frank Beyer did well in synchronizing his narration of the film on 'New Zealand Birds' with the right bird. He was handicapped in not having seen the film before, but he improved as he went along. We were treated to views of the country and such birds as Royal Albatross, Blue Penguin, Paradise Duck, Redbilled Gulls, and many others. It was interesting to see that a Grebe in New Zealand looks like an American Grebe, a Magpie in New Zealand like our Magpie, etc ... the markings were different, but you could name the type of bird without much trouble.

During the meeting, Chris Nelson called attention to 'Bay Watchers' groups being organized to monitor threatened damage to bay shores by fills, spills, etc. He also mentioned the many calls he had had regarding the recent oil spill resulting from the tanker collision.

Frank Beyer pointed out that if the Baldwin Ship Channel goes through, much of the marsh in our county will be covered with mud and muck.

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The February 6 field trip to Coyote Hills Park was led by Frank Beyer, who sent in this report:

"We had a good field trip. Seventeen adults and three children were on hand. The weather was cloudy but cleared before noon. We saw no rarities but had a total of 60 species. A highlight of the day was a flock of nearly 50 White Pelicans in flight close overhead and then soaring to a considerable height.

"We saw - Western & Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common & Snowy Egret; Bittern; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal; Shoveler; Canvasback; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Red-tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Quail; Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Dunlin; Marbled Godwit; Glaucous-winged\* & Herring Gull; White-throated Swift; Anna's Hummingbird; Red-shafted Flicker; Black & Say's Phoebe; Tree Swallow; Scrub Jay; Bushtit; Longbilled Marsh Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Golden-crowned & Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Pipit; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Yellowthroat; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; House Finch; Rufous & Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln\* & Song Sparrow."

Also Loggerhead Shrike

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\* not on my list for trip

Chris Nelson sent in this report on the January field trip to Coloma:

"Twenty people showed up for the trip and enjoyed each other's company, if not the birding along the cold and damp American River. Were it not for the woodpeckers and jays, one would have thought that everything was in South America. The only birds of real interest were a Kingfisher and a Pied-billed Grebe - the latter following a hen Mallard like a long-lost fledgling.

"Most of our time was spent visiting the historic sawmill and raceway where gold was discovered, the outdoor exhibits of equipment and artifacts of the gold rush era, and attending a colored film on the history of gold discovery and exhibits in the museum."

After a five months struggle and the mailing of many letters and documents, we have finally won clearance from the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt outfit. We have been warned that our exemption will be revoked if we make 'substantial' efforts to influence legislation or if we engage in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office. Our thanks go to Bill Betts, who prepared the papers for the revision of our Articles of Incorporation, without which we would not have had our clearance.

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Observations:

More from Russ Epley (which should have been continued on page 3 of the February 'Quail'):

- Jan. 6 .. Tomales Bay  
Osprey (on post behind the Inverness Hotel)
- Jan. 9 .. Coyote Hills  
Green-winged & Cinnamon Teal  
Gallinule
- Jan. 26 .. Los Banos Wildlife Management Area  
30 White-faced Ibis  
10 American Bittern

Lynn Farrar saw a female King Eider at Monterey.  
 The Purcells reported a 5-mile stretch of geese on Bacon Island, west of Stockton and Red-breasted Merganser at Berkeley Aquatic Park.  
 Frieda Shackelford reported either an Allen or Rufous (female) Hummingbird at her home on Feb. 4. (She didn't have it in hand.)  
 The Shackelford & Glotfeltys also saw 9 Burrowing Owls on Feb. 6 after the field trip to Coyote Hills. The owls were in a field across from the golf course at the junction of Thornton & Jarvis Roads.  
 (An un-observation) Frank Beyer missed by one day the California Condor at Coyote Hills.

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Now if you had gone to see 'Scandinavian Saga' at the recent Audubon Wildlife Tour, you would have heard the yell of the lynx, the clacking of stork bills, the goofy sounds of the Red-throated Diver ( a loon), and the yumpin' strains of Scandinavian dances. You would have seen spectacular scenery, Eagle Owls, Lemmings, Skuas, and pretty girls. John Bulger had a wry sense of humor that sparkled the evening and pleased the customers.

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According to information from National Audubon and our Treasurer, we have the following new members, whom we welcome to Mt. Diablo Audubon:

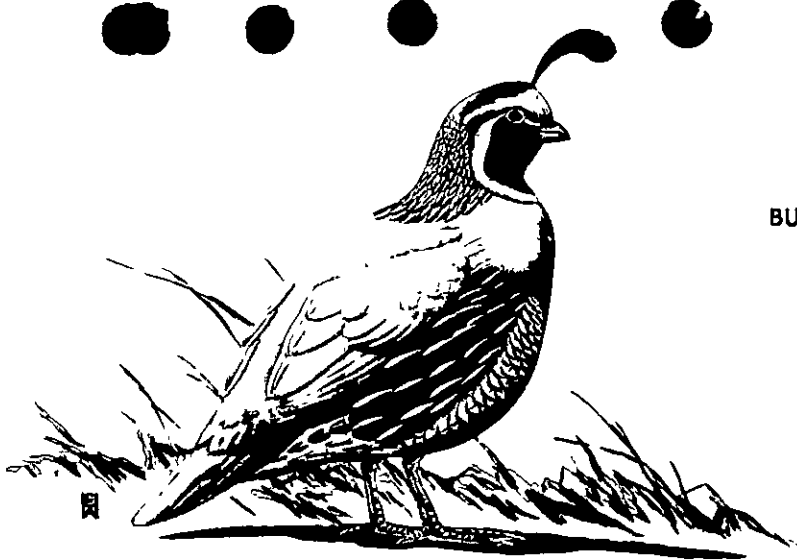
- Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Fuerst, 131 Donna Maria Way, Orinda 94563
- Mrs. John Meyer, 2120 Blackhawk Road, Danville 94526
- Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Richmond, 125 Via Serena, Alamo 94507
- Alyce Vaughan, 7 Moraga Via, Orinda 94563
- Walter Weibezahn, 1978 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek 94595
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Williams, 1203 McEwing Court, Concord 94521

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Interested in having a bird stuffed (aside from Thanksgiving)? George Kostal said that his son, George Jr., and friend, Dale Chambers, have set up DIABLO TAXIDERMY. For information call George Jr. at 689-8015 or Dale at 686-2259.

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Pres: Chris Nelson  
RFD Box 294-A  
Martinez, Ca. 94553  
Phone: 228-9369

(Next Deadline: April 16)

April, 1971  
Vol. 17, No. 10

Next Meetings:

Thursday, April 1, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Joanne Dean will present a program on 'Trees, Shrubs,  
and Lesser Known Plants of Sunol Valley Regional Park'.

Thursday, May 6, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
John Smail of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will  
discuss the Observatory, oil slicks, and pelagic birds.

Next Field Trips:

Sunday, April 4, 9:45 a.m. Sunol Valley Regional Park.  
Joanne Dean will lead a botanical trip in the Park.

Saturday, May 15, 8 a.m. Lafayette Reservoir.  
Leader: Tom Schulenberg.

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For several years we have been having well-attended wildflower programs in April. This year the emphasis will be more on wild trees and shrubs, when member Joanne Dean discusses the botany of Sunol Valley Regional Park (where she works) at our regular meeting in Sun Valley Meeting Room B on Thursday, April 1st (No foolin'.)

Joanne says that her program "will include slides to illustrate tricks for instant identification of various plants found in the Oak Woodland, Stream-side, Evergreen, Soft Chaparral and Grassland communities of the park from a distance by shape, color, and other gross characteristics and by finer characteristics of leaves, bark and flowers. Practice in keying leaves of the common trees will also be included."

As a supplement to her program, Joanne will lead us to the field the following Sunday, April 4, at Sunol Valley Regional Park. Meet at the Old Green Barn in the Park a little before 10 a.m.

"From 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.", Joanne says, "I'll be leading a leisurely stroll along Indian Joe Creek, one of the park's prime wildflower areas, during the traditional peak of the wildflower season. (Early rains followed by a period of cold, dry weather, have this year, I'm afraid, conspired against as good a show as we have had some years.) This will be a family-type walk, so why not bring along a picnic lunch, and then join other park visitors at our Sunol family talk in the Old Green Barn at 1:30."

To get there (I Hope): Take U.S. 680 south beyond Dublin. Switch off the Freeway onto Calaveras Road (also marked Niles or Dumbarton Bridge?). Don't go towards Niles Canyon ... instead, go under the Freeway on Calaveras Road and continue another 4 miles to Jeary Road. Turn left on Jeary and drive almost 2 miles directly into the Park.

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- At our business meeting on March 4th, we adopted two motions:
- (a) expressing support for Assemblyman John Dunlap's bill (AB 660) to ban hunting of mountain lions in California; and
  - (b) sending \$30 to the South San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge Commission - the money to come from June Potluck collections.

Our speaker was Josh Barkin, Regional Park Naturalist, who told us everything we wanted to know about insects but were afraid to ask. Mixing his talk with philosophy and poetry, Josh frequently and rightly remarked that many insects are truly 'incredible' in structure and function. His pictures illustrated why he termed them 'incredible'. Split-frame pictures often showed development and comparisons of insects.

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The Coudens led the trip to Bodega Bay on March 6th and, naturally, there was typical, blissful Couden weather. Harry comments, "Our group included 30 members, friends, sharp-eyed youngsters, 11 cars, and 7 'scopes. A local resident contacted us to express his hope that we would petition authorities to declare the area a State Refuge and thus close it to hunting.

"Collectively, we probably found more than the 65 species I am reporting. Most everyone observed the 51 count up to lunch time. And all sightings are for species observed from the waterfront area only. We started with the 4 Grebe species and Black Brant at wharveside, then saw several Red-throated Loons (one with a very iridescent red throat) on the first stop. Later Frank Beyer and I raised 5 Snipe from a marshy area by the ancient and honorable method of rock throwing. The Whimbrel on the coastal shore was good, too. There were no Pelicans or California Gulls to be seen. (Scout's Honor!) However, we did see:

- "Common & Red-throated Loon; Horned, Eared, Western & Pied-billed Grebe; Double-cr. & Brandt's Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Common & Snowy Egret; Black Brant; Pintail; Green-winged & Ginnarion Teal; Shoveler; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; White-winged & Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Red-tailed, Marsh & Sparrow Hawk; Coot; Oystercatcher; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Surfbird; Ruddy Turnstone; Common Snipe; Whimbrel; Willet; Least\* & Western Sandpiper; ??? Dunlin; Sanderling; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, Ring-tailed & New Gull; Mourning Dove; Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Black Phoebe\* Raven; Berrick's & Long-billed Marsh Wren; Robin; Western Bluebird; Pipit; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Meadowlark; Redwinged & Brewer Blackbird; House Finch; Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-cr. & Song Sparrow. \*not also Pelagic Cormorant, Common Merganser, Black-bellied Plover, Herring Gull, Fox Sparrow

Sorry about that March 8th Screen Tour mix-up. Originally it was scheduled to be on the Chesapeake Bay area (as announced in your 'Quail'). Later a notice came from Diablo Valley College saying the program would be on India (as announced at the March meeting). But Audubon pulled an Indian rope trick on us and we ended up seeing Burdette White's excellent film, 'On the Trail of Painted Jewels and Other Gems of Nature'. Excellent pictures of hummingbirds, mainly in the Chiricahua Mountains, and other scenes across the U.S. and Eastern Canada. All top photography.

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Observations:

Tom & Edna Epley observed 30 White-faced Ibis and 10 American Bittern in the Los Banos Wildlife Management Area on Jan. 26.

Violet Beitzel, a former very active member, called on March 7th to say that on three consecutive mornings she had seen a Phainopepla at her home in Concord.

Tom Schulenberg said that scores of observers saw a drake Tufted Duck (third record for California) in early February near Palo Alto. Over a 4-day weekend in February Tom was in N.E. California and saw many Rough-legged Hawks, both kinds of Eagles, Prairie Falcon, 17 Sage Grouse, 6 Long-eared Owls, Northern Shrike, Slate-colored Junco, & Lapland Longspurs. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Lafayette Reservoir on March 7 was probably a leftover from those wintering there.

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We welcome our newest National and Mt. Diablo Audubon members:

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Barker, 1123 Rahara Drive, Lafayette 94549

Robert W. Blue, H.D. 1000 Pine Street, Martinez 94553

Dr. & Mrs. Dale Christensen, 181 25th Street, Richmond

Edward B. Clark, H.D., 1034 Marietta Blvd., Livermore 94550

Paul E. Crantz, H.D. 127 E. 18th St., Antioch 94509

Tom E. Lee, 3071 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek 94596

Mrs. Ann Shaughnessey, 304 W. Linda Mesa, Danville 94526

David S. Tittle, D.D.S., 2100 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill 94523

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We were saddened to hear of the death of our Secretary, Hazel McCarthy, on March 5th. A member for several years, she had helped us in many ways and had been Secretary the last two years, faithfully attending meetings until illness confined her to home and hospital. Her husband, Bob, our Treasurer sincerely appreciated the memorials in her honor, and he thanks Mt. Diablo Audubon members for their many expressions of sympathy.

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Margaret Schaller, our Publicity Chairman, has volunteered to finish out the year as Secretary as well.

The honeymooners, Ed & Edna Eichstedt, have been on a trip to Colombia in South America.

Jane Helrich and her SANE friends (Save America's Natural Environment) splashed the papers with efforts to save a little of Las Trampas Ridge. Indications are that they might succeed.

Another paper splasher was our President, Chris Nelson, with a picture and write-up on the Briones Park Wildflower Kits, now available in most of the local libraries on a reserved basis.

The feature attraction for most people at a local theater recently was 'Cougar Country', but I was also pleased to hear Audubon's Western Representative, Paul Howard, give a fine narration for the documentary, 'Where the Wild Goose Flies'.

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Your Editor sure likes May vacations - so much so that he will be away on another one this May. Therefore, the May & June issues of 'The Quail' will again be combined, to appear in late April. ... Work is progressing on formation of an Editorial Committee to help put out 'The Quail' starting next Fall, since the job is too much for one man or beast.

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An observation by Harry Couden in the Pittsburgh (Penn.) Press:

An English teacher in Broomfield (Colo.) asked a student to use the word 'vernacular'. The student wrote, 'The bird watchers watched the birds through their vernaculars'.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ed Hize, Editor .. 1255 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord 94520 .. Phone: 686-1341



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(Next Deadline: June 16)

May & June, 1971  
Vol. 17, Nos. 11 & 12

## Next Meetings:

Thursday, May 6, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
John Smail of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory will  
discuss work done at the Observatory.

Monday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. Annual Potluck Dinner &  
Meeting at the home of Ann and Chris Nelson at the  
top of Dry Creek Road.

## Next Field Trip:

Saturday, May 15, 8 a.m. Lafayette Reservoir.  
Leader: Tom Schulenberg (Phone: 254-8729).

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The Point Reyes Bird Observatory needs no introduction to many of our members who are also members of the PRBO and may have donated hours of work in its behalf. It's an unique, privately-supported, non-profit group that has grown up from grass roots in the past few years, occupies buildings in an isolated section of Point Reyes National Seashore, and generally works on the study, banding, and counting of the multitude of birds that fly over the Point Reyes Peninsula and the nearby Farallon Islands.

John Smail, Executive Director of PRBO, will be the guest speaker at our meeting on May 6th, at 8 p.m. in Sun Valley Meeting Room B. He will tell us about the work done by the Observatory, illustrated with slides, and will also discuss other topics ranging from the extra work caused by the oil spill of January 18th to information about the pelagic birds that fly over the waters off the Observatory and the Farallon Islands.

At this meeting we will also elect the officers who have agreed to serve for the next year.

The May field trip will be a week later than usual, to avoid the Mother's Day weekend. Tom Schulenberg will lead the party at Lafayette Reservoir and asks us to meet there at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 15th. It is expected that the walk around the lake will take two or three hours, and then you might want to stay around and have a picnic lunch. Tom knows the area thoroughly, and you have often read observations in the 'Quail' that he has made at the Reservoir. Perhaps he'll dig up a rare bird or two during the field trip.

Lafayette Reservoir is easily reached off the old highway leading west from downtown Lafayette. There is a parking fee of 50¢ at the East Bay Municipal Utility District parking lot at the lake.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our annual Potluck Dinner-Final Meeting will be held at the home of Ann and Chris Nelson this year. Since Chris will be at Asilomar the night of our regularly scheduled meeting, he has asked us to gather around his patio on Monday night, June 7th, about 6:30. Please arrange with Ann ahead of time as to the food you will bring (phone: 228-9369). Chris suggests that some of us bring a few slides of beauty to give us a brief program after the meeting. New officers for the 71-72 year will be installed at the meeting. Remember that we have already voted to allot \$30 from our potluck receipts to pay for the donation we made recently to the South S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge ~~Committee~~ Committee.

Bring the usual card table, chairs, eating utensils, plates, etc ... and don't forget the food! Let's hope that we will have as balmy a night as we had at Nelson's last year, when hot split pea soup warmed our tongues and spirits.

To get there: Find your way to the junction of Reliez Valley Road and Alhambra Valley Road. Jog a few hundred feet to the west to Briones Road, where all the mailboxes are. Climb Briones Road all the way to the top, to the last house. Plenty of parking available.

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As announced in the April 'Quail' there will be no bulletin issued next month, because your Editor will be on vacation in mid-May. A July/August edition will appear during the summer, and, hopefully, a revised membership roster also.

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In President Chris Nelson's absence, and to the mournful strains of an electronic organ next door, Frank Beyer presided at our April 1 meeting. This is some of the business we transacted:

- o We authorized Treasurer Bob McCarthy to write a check for \$20 to a conservation cause of his desire in memory of his wife, Hazel, our former Secretary.
- o We voted to endorse Assemblyman Knox' bill, which would raise the East Bay Regional Park District taxation from 10¢ to 20¢ to provide for purchase of new lands and developments.
- o We voted to permit subscriptions to "The Quail" at \$2.50 per year. Since we became a branch of National Audubon, we have received several inquiries from other Auduboners wishing to subscribe but wanting to retain membership elsewhere.

The program for the evening was given by Joanne Dean, enthusiastic naturalist from Sunol Valley Regional Park. She started us off by having us "key" some tree leaves she brought, and then she presented a detailed slide program showing some of the trees and other plants in Sunol Valley Park.

The following Sunday Joanne led a field trip in the Park. She sent in this report of the trip:

"Despite an unencouraging prediction on the size of this year's wildflower crop, the 18 adults and 2 children who came to the field trip enjoyed a regular wildflower banquet. We tasted Miner's Lettuce, feasted our eyes upon Filaree, Fiddlenecks and Fiesta Flowers, saw Butter and Eggs scrambled across the meadows, and took in Buttercups, Hillside Pea, Popcorn Flower, Wild Radish, Pepper-grass and Brodiaea.

"In addition to the culinary delights, we also savored the sight of Johnny Jumpup (Wild Pansy), Blue-eyed Grass, Owl's Clover, Chinese Houses, Bladder Parsnip, Sky Lupine, Fringedpod, Mule Ears, Larkspur and Tomcat Clover. Several "minatures" were also seen, including Bedstraw, Speedwell, Bur Clover, Chickweed, and Small White Nemophila."

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Observations:

Jean Richmond saw Lawrence Goldfinch at the Aquatic Park. (Hi, Larry!)

Marry Adanson reported the first Bullock's Oriole at his place on March 26 and Solitary Vireo on March 30.

Ed Eichstedt saw Black Phoebe and White-throated Sparrow. Where? In Colombia (South America) of all places!

Dorothy and Harry Couden spent D's spring vacation as tourists in San Antonio, Brownsville, and Padre Island, Texas, and as touristas in Matamoros and vicinity, Mexico. Although their count was modest (120), Dorothy added 48 new species to her list and Harry 14. Several species were indigenous to just the Rio Grande Delta area.

Ben Jones, environmental chief at Phillip's refinery, claims that Cliff Swallows come back to Avon on March 16 each year.

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New Members:

We extend warm greetings to these latest members of National Audubon and Mt. Diablo Audubon:

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bowers, 1150 St. Francis Dr., Concord 94520
- Antony Gabor, 371 Cordell Drive, Danville 94526
- Mrs. Richard Hackenbracht, 1667 Georgia Dr., Concord 94520
- Donald & Ann Huddard, 3937 Majestic Dr., Concord 94520
- Howard Palmer, 713 Pershing Dr., Walnut Creek 94596

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We received a check for \$7.50 from the Women's Club of Walnut Creek in remembrance of Hazel McCarthy, who was very active in their group, too.

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Betty Adanson noticed a small item about Defense Dept. plans to use birds in wartime. She investigated and found that the Pentagon has awarded the Psych. Dept. of the U. of Mississippi \$600,000 for such studies.

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This issue marks the end of my 10th year as Editor. I had hoped to retire gracefully from the job this year - but some members persuade better than I can resist. So I have reluctantly agreed to hang on one more year (and positively no more!) - assuming, of course, that a chronic health problem will not get worse in the next year.

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# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 641  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: Aug. 14)

July & August, 1971  
Vol. 18, Nos. 1 & 2

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 2, 1971

Next Field Trip: Sometime in September.

.....

This is your summer edition of 'The Quail'. Our regular monthly schedule will resume with the September issue, which will appear in late August. There will be Board Meetings and Committee Meetings by that time, and we should have more definite information for you on proposed meetings and field trips.

Sometime within the next few weeks, Mt. Diablo Audubon members will receive a copy of a pamphlet entitled, 'The Housewife's Environmental Handbook', jointly sponsored by the East Bay Regional Park District, Pleasant Hill AAUW, and Mt. Diablo Audubon. At our May meeting we voted to spend money on this project as a way of spreading the gospel of Ecology.

A recent ruling by National Audubon Society has greatly expanded our membership. All members of National Audubon within our geographical area who have not designated membership in another branch of NAS are automatically being assigned membership in Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. This brings money into our kitty, because we collect \$4 on Single Memberships and \$6 on Family Memberships. (Probably to compensate for this generosity, NAS fees are said to climb to \$12 Single and \$15 Family on September 1st.)

It is hoped that some of these additional funds can be used to upgrade the printing of 'The Quail', since it is now necessary to grind out almost 300 copies of the bulletin.

The great increase in membership makes our roster look like a telephone book. Heretofore we have had rosters printed and mailed to you in the summer, but this year it has been decided to limit distribution to the officers and committee members who will use the listing. Additional copies may be ordered by members at meetings at a small fee to cover the cost of Xeroxing.

\*\*\*\*\*

At our June Potluck-Meeting we elected the following lucky members to serve as our officers during the 1971/72 year:

President	...	Bob McCarthy
Vice-President	...	Glenn Shanks
Secretary	...	Margaret Schaller
Treasurer	...	Doris Eckstrom

They will need help, of course, so if Bob McCarthy calls you and wants you to serve on a committee, don't be bashful - just come right out and say, "I sure will". It may be poor grammar but will be good taste, and Bob will be pleased.

The June Potluck-Meeting at Ann and Chris Nelson's was well attended, despite a cool breeze that drove us inside for the meeting. Mulled wine warmed some of the frozen bodies before dinner. There was plenty of good food and little left to carry back home. The meeting was over in a hurry, and proceeds went to the S.F. Bay Wildlife Refuge Committee.

We were fortunate to see an excellent film, 'The Baobab Tree', photographed by Root-Leakey Safaris and shown by Adrian and Vicky Luckhurst. This 'upside-down tree' hosts a variety of hornbills, honey-guides, rollers, and weavers. There were excellent pictures of a hornbill nest taken through a glass plate and showing how the young birds and their mother are sealed into the trunk of the tree until the young birds are old enough to break out on their own. The photography was superb - as Chris said, "It was better than most of the Audubon Wildlife Films".

The evening came to a close with a showing of slides by some of the members, but by then many who had to work the next day had gone home.

It was announced by Frank ~~Boyer~~ Boyer at this meeting that plans to form a Vallejo Audubon Society were progressing favorably. This branch of National Audubon would take in the Vallejo and Napa areas and would forge the last link around the Bay Area. Although Frank plans to devote much time to Vallejo Audubon, he has agreed to be our Field Trip Chairman this next year and hopes to have a few combined trips in the future.

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Way back in May attractive Miss Karen Stromsnoe started off our meeting by giving a learned discussion of Sturnus vulgaris (the Starling). Later, after a short business meeting, John Snail of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory gave a learned and illustrated discussion of the Farallon Islands, where PRBO has conducted bird studies for several years. We learned that Cassin's Auklet was the most numerous bird on the Islands, numbering about 100,000, but that the Western Gull could be considered the dominant bird. Also we heard that Curlew are getting thinner - a phenomenon noted in many other birds of the seacoast. Protection was being sought for the Farallons from fishing boat hunters. Subsequently the California Legislature has passed S.B. 297 making the Islands a State Refuge and giving this protection. Mr. Snail briefly discussed the history of PRBO and its recent expansion in membership.

.....

#### Observations:

Ed Eichstedt wandered through Muir Woods with Golden Gate Audubon and spotted two owls - two Spotted Owls, we understand. Chalk up 3 Teals (Green, Blue & Cinnamon) for Frank Beyer at Tubbs Island.



Bob McCarthy spent a little time in Sedona (Arizona) in late April and reports excellent motel-balcony birding: Black-headed Grosbeaks, Orioles, Hummingbirds, Ground Doves, etc. He thinks that most of the Mourning Doves in the West were in Arizona then. Thousands of Cliff Swallows zoomed around Montezuma's Castle.

You may remember that Harry Couden reported a 'CooMar' Hawk on the October trip to Linantour Spit. Observers couldn't decide whether it was a shez Cooper or a he Marsh Hawk. Recently, Allen Chambers of PRBO, who knows his birds of prey, has found the nest of the bird and now calls it a 2-year old female Cooper's Hawk.

Your Editor recently spent over a week in Utah and occasionally saw a bird. I believe I saw a Whizzin' Prairie Falcon near the East Entrance of Zion Park. Also, in the Park itself I watched a Golden Eagle soar for 5 minutes over the White Cliffs it dove over.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom Schulenberg led a trip to Lafayette Reservoir on May 15th and sent in the following report:

"With the assistance of Lynn Farrar, Frank Beyer, and over 20 members, the trip was a great success. 50 Species of birds were seen. The over-all tardiness of this year's Spring migration gave greater variety to the list than would normally be expected for this time of the year. Excellent views were had of such often hard-to-see birds as Wrenit, House Wren, California Thrasher, and Black-headed Grosbeak. A singing Lazuli Bunting was a real highlight. Orange-crowned Warblers were observed feeding young just out of the nest. This is an excellent area we should visit more often. In addition to the above-named birds, we also saw:

"Pied-billed Grebe; Quail; Pheasant; Coot; Vulture; Ruddy Duck; Red-tailed Hawk; Spotted Sandpiper; Glaucous-winged, California & Ring-billed Gull; Bandtailed Pigeon; Mourning Dove; Anna's Hummer; Red-shafted Flicker; Violet-green, Rough-winged & Cliff Swallows; Scrub Jay; Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bushtit; White-br. Nuthatch; Bewick's Wren; Robin; Swainson's Thrush; Starling; Hutton's Vireo; Yellow, Audubon's & Wilson's Warbler; Red-winged Blackbird; Bullock's Oriole; Cowbird; Western Tanager; Purple & House Finch; Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous & Brown Towhee; Song Sparrow."

.....

Some of our members are pretty active in the teaching field, thus:

John Bruce, a San Ramon District biology teacher, is conducting an extension course for the Univ. of California entitled "Ecology and Conservation for Teachers".

Tom Steyaert, Diablo Valley College biology instructor, has published a college freshman biology textbook, "Life and Patterns of Order". Released only two months ago by McGraw-Hill, it is now in second printing. Tom is now writing a second book, "The Biology of Man and Cities".

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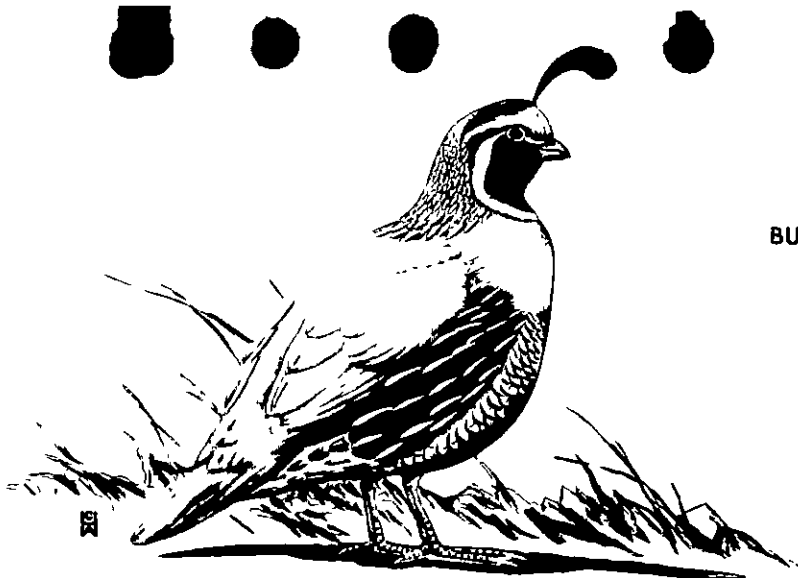
Space prevents us from listing all our new members at this time, but we do welcome -

from Lafayette: Virginia Arner, Mrs. Langler Brooker, Peter Gonos, James Hale, Nancy Johnson, Win Lawson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lott, Mrs. L. E. Mancini, Mrs. Meredith Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Swayne, Jr., Kathy Taylor, and Harvey Wehmeier.

from Concord: Mary Almand, A. Louis Elliott, Joann Freifeld, John Hafner, Howard Lederer, and George Pedrozzi.

from Pleasant Hill: Brian Birch, Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Crothers, Mr. & Mrs. James O'Neill, Mrs. Gertrude Saver, and Donald Spoerl.

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# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: Sept. 19)

September, 1971  
Vol. 18, No. 3

Next Meeting: Monday, Sept. 13, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Phil Gordon will present his 'Desert Treasures'.

Next Field Trip: Saturday, Sept. 18. Lower Tubbs Island. Meet at  
9 a.m. Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236).

\*\*\*\*\*

Our first Fall meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 13 instead of the regular first Thursday of the month. The usual meeting room (Sun Valley B) has already been assigned to another group on our regular meeting night (Sept. 2), and the following Thursday is the Admission Day holiday. We have been promised the room for the 13th.

New members, who may not have been at previous meetings, will find Meeting Room B on the lower Mall of the Sun Valley Shopping Center. Go down the escalator and keep going in the same direction to the end of the hall and then turn right.

The program will be given by Phil Gordon, a former president of Ohlone Audubon. He lives in Walnut Creek but runs down to San Leandro to teach in a high school there. His program on 'Desert Treasures' will be an "incomparable journey through the deserts of the Southwest, stressing the ecology and geology of the areas seen".

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The September Field Trip will be held the following Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Lower Tubbs Island Refuge. We went there a year ago and those who attended were enthusiastic about this area now owned by the Nature Conservancy. It lies between Vallejo and Novato on the south side of Calif. Highway 37 (Sears Point Road). From our area, go over the Benicia bridge, head for Vallejo, join Freeway 80, turn off just beyond the Solano County Fairgrounds (Columbus Parkway) and follow the signs toward San Rafael. Go west, young man, on Highway 37 about ten miles, passing over Sonoma Creek. Just before Tolay Creek Bridge and the turnoff to Sonoma you will find a locked gate on the left. Frank Beyer will be there with key in hand to let you through for excellent birding.

.....

If all goes well, this issue of 'The Quail' will have a new appearance and should be easier to read. Over nine years ago former member Bev Wilder was able to have the bulletin printed by offset at U.S. Steel, but since his departure it has been printed by the Ditto process - thanks to the help of Mary Dunn at Phillips Petroleum. Ditto is o.k. for a hundred copies or so, but with our present production of 300 copies more work is required and not all copies are clear. A healthier treasury enables us to try commercial printing, and this present shift to offset is our first step.

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An Observation:

It's rather shaky, but Frank Beyer thinks he saw a Stilt Sandpiper recently at Dumbarton Bridge. Although he knows his shorebirds, he admits that Stilt Sandpipers aren't even supposed to be around here.

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Rare Birds:

There have been reports from time to time of California Condors being in Lower California. Now we have a definite report that a few of the big birds are near Diablo Peak in Baja California. Here in California there is a rumor that Yamaha Motorcycle Co. is trying to buy the Hopper (Percey) Ranch near the present Condor Sanctuary - just what Condors need!

You've all heard of the mass poisoning of eagles in Wyoming, but are you aware that the rancher who set out the antelope with thallium sulfate to poison coyotes (and thereby poisoned the eagles) has been fined the minimum penalty of \$675 because it could not legally be proved that he intended to kill eagles? There have been further reports that over 700 eagles have been shot from planes in Wyoming and Colorado for \$25 an eagle!

One of our members, Barbara Colvin, had the rare privilege recently of being given a guided tour through the Pawtuxent Research Station in Maryland and saw 12 Whooping Cranes. These were birds hatched from eggs stolen from nests in the Northwest Territories - no harm done, because generally only one egg hatches in a clutch of two. It will be a few years yet before the hatched birds will be old enough to think about reproducing.

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Audubon Conventions:

The next National Audubon Convention will be in Denver in the Spring of 1973, and it is hoped that a West Coast workshop will be held at Asilomar (Monterey County) next Spring.

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Our Leaders:

For the benefit of the members and exchange Audubon groups, our leaders for the 1971-72 year are:

Pres: Robert McCarthy, P.O. Box 41, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597 934-2724  
 V.P. Glenn Shanks, 3849 Maplewood Ct., Concord, Ca. 94520  
 Sec: Margaret Schaller, P.O. Box 337, Alamo, Ca. 94507 935-6093  
 Treas: Doris Eckstrom, 1100 Singingwood #6, Walnut Ck 94595 933-9257  
 Field Trips: Frank Beyer, 409 Rollingwood Dr. Vallejo 94590 707-644-0236

'The Quail' is sent to all members of Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, including National Audubon members within our geographic area. National Audubon dues are being increased to \$12 per person and \$15 per family. Subscriptions to 'The Quail' are available at \$2.50 per year.

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Ed Mize, Editor..1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Ca. 94518. Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597  
P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: Oct. 16)

October, 1971  
Vol. 18, No. 4

*wild flower slides by  
Frank Beyer - magnificent!*

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 7, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
Speaker and subject not yet announced.

Next Field Trip: Conn Dam (Lake Hennessey). Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 a.m.  
Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236).

Next Screen Tour: Friday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
Wilfred E. Gray will show his film, 'British Columbia -  
Mountains to the Sea'.  
\*\*\*\*\*

We will hold our October meeting on the regular meeting night, Thursday the 7th of October, and in our regular meeting place, Sun Valley Meeting Room B. The time interval between our late September meeting and the printing of this issue of "The Quail" is short and no speaker or subject has yet been announced by President Bob McCarthy. Bob says, however, that "the show will go on", and he guarantees a good program - even if it is a mystery at this point.

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We are returning to Conn Dam for a field trip on Saturday, October 9. Frank Beyer, our Field Trip Chairman, asks that we meet in the picnic grounds at the foot of the dam at 9 a.m. After some preliminary birding nearby we will jump into the cars and drive around the south and east sides of the lake, stopping often to bird. Lunch will be at noon wherever we are. It has been almost three years since we have had a trip to this excellent birding area, and the climate should be better than on that wet and cold December day in 1968.

It's easy to get there. Take State Highway between Napa & Calistoga and turn right onto Highway 128 at Rutherford. Follow the signs and go east about 3 miles to the dam. If you have more time you can take a more scenic route by turning at Napa onto Highway 121, go towards Winters about 3 miles and turn onto the Silverado Trail, which you follow 13 miles north to the dam-road junction.

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The first Audubon Wildlife Film of the season will be shown on Friday, October 15, at 8 p.m. in the Diablo Valley College gym. (The show is sponsored by DVC as a public service and is free). Wilfred Gray will show a picture of British Columbia entitled "Mountains to the Sea". He is an award-winning producer of documentaries and travelogs and was here three years ago with a movie about the four seasons in British Columbia. Highlights of his new film are swans, sea lions, salmon, grouse, beaver, and elk.

\*\*\*\*\*

At our meeting in mid-September Phil Gordon took us into four deserts by showing us a fine collection of slides of plants, birds, animals, and geologic formations. Many of his pictures were taken from planes. It was a little surprise to hear that there are more birds in Death Valley in summer than in winter!

President Bob McCarthy asked for volunteers to help with committees and was very happy to have a good response, as follows:

Membership: Ed Eichstedt, Membership Chairman for the past three years, asked to be replaced, since he would be too busy traveling. Nancy Swanson, just back from a year in San Jose, volunteered to take over Ed's duties;

Publicity: Now that Margaret Schaller is our Secretary, her former job as Publicity Chairman will be handled by Agnes Eckford;

Hospitality: Betty Lendrum said she would keep an eye on the coffee pot. (Incidentally, Betty was the subject of a nice article in a recent Concord paper dealing with her skill as an organic gardener);

'Quail' Mail: Jon and Betty Williams are going to help the Editor mail out 'The Quail' the rest of this year. (Hooray!)

Glenn Shanks, our Vice-President, has written to Ford Motor Co. to dispute their claim that smog is no problem in Los Angeles. According to Glenn, "God did not make a kidney that can handle smog".

.....

#### Observations:

Lynn Farrar says that during a recent cold spell he spotted a male Calliope Hummingbird in his backyard. (Cold spell, Lynn?)

Bob McCarthy, just returned from the Northwest, commented on the great number of Tri-colored Blackbirds at Grass Lake on the way to Klamath Falls.

Chris Nelson says he used to have some pet baby raccoons, but some Horned Owls decooned his place. Chris also confirms that Mountain Lion tracks have been seen in Briones Park - and that ain't no lyin'!

Harry and Dorothy Couden recently returned from a month of business and pleasure in Hawaii. Harry says, "Over half of our 45 species were new to us. We observed that the Mynah bird is really a mayjah species."

The Los Angeles Audubon Society has an interesting observation on the rarest bird in the U.S. Last June the first Black-capped Gnat-catchers in the U.S. were recorded, studied, photographed, and taped by interesting birders near Sonoita Creek in S.E. Arizona. Soon afterwards ornithologists from the University of Arizona boldly went to the area and collected the entire family of five birds. Arnold Small of L.A. Audubon pointedly asks, "Was the professional reputation of some ornithologist advanced? What right does any individual have to kill a bird of this kind?"

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You will note that on the first page of this issue we have a new address:  
P.O. Box 53, Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597

This will be our official address from now on. Heretofore, the Editor has used one address, the President another, and the Treasurer puts his address on the checks - all very confusing! Since we change officers every year and your Editor is resigning in June, it is time to have a more permanent address - a postoffice box. Bob McCarthy will keep an eye on it. (Note to other Audubon editors: Until next June keep sending exchange bulletins to Ed Mize at the address given below.)

.....

Ann Cavanagh has been active with a group of Contra Costa citizens trying to save the 22-room adobe mansion built by Eugene O'Neill near Danville. 'Tao House' is adjacent to the Las Trampas Regional Park. Recently the house was named a National Historical Landmark, but has no protection whatsoever from speculators or developers.

.....

The Sierra Club Foundation, Point Pinole Committee, P.O. Box 1741, Richmond, Ca. 94802, will gladly accept your contributions or send you information about Point Pinole. This 800 acre peninsula jutting into San Pablo Bay has been kept in a natural state by munition companies and by its present owner, Bethlehem Steel, which bought it as the site of a large steel mill but decided not to build on it. Now there is word that Bethlehem would consider selling the land. It is hoped by many that some day Point Pinole will be given deserved park status.

Likewise, the Annadel State Park Fund, Box E, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402, will accept contributions and send information on Annadel Farms, which is slated for park status. At least 4150 acres are secured and hopefully 700 more acres can be bought for a million dollars to act as land buffers. The wild chunk of land is east of Santa Rosa and contains many types of trees, wildlife, and two lakes.

\*\*\*\*\*

A National Audubon Western Conference will be held at Asilomar in Easter Week of 1972 (March 25, 26, 27 & 28). This will be the first such conference there in four years. You can obtain information and forms by mailing a postcard with your name, address, and zip code to AUDUBON CONFERENCE, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, Ca. 95825. Here's your chance to enjoy excellent speakers and field trips in an ideal place.

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Our temporary charter as a branch of National Audubon has been replaced by a permanent charter, since we met the membership gain and other requirements in our first year under National Audubon's wing.

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Lack of space last month prevented us from greeting the following Walnut Creek residents who have recently joined National Audubon and our group:  
D.C.Crow; Ann Gerald; Bunny Marie Gibson; Ted Gibson; Mrs. Beth Gregory; Cindy, Laurie & Cheryl Greene; Charles Howard, Sr.; Richard M. Pierce; Mrs. R.A.Schnaible; David Schoen; Mr. & Mrs. Allen Scholl; Mrs. Dorothy Scott; Claudia Skinner; & Sam Smoker.

+++++

Ed Mize, Editor..1255 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, Ca. 94518..Phone: 686-1341



# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: Nov. 13)

November, 1971  
Vol. 18, No. 5

- Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B.  
A film entitled 'The Way of a Trout' will be shown.
- Next Field Trip: Vallejo Parks. Saturday, Nov. 6. Meet at 9 a.m.  
just off the Benicia-Vallejo Freeway at the L St.  
offramp. Leader: Frank Beyer (707-644-0236).
- Next Screen Tour: Wednesday, Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Diablo Valley College Gym.  
John Paling 'Filming in No-Man's Land'.

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'The Way of a Trout', a film produced by James W. Wilkie, will be shown at our November 4th meeting in Sun Valley B. It sounds as though the movie might be about a fish. Some of our members have seen the film elsewhere and highly recommend it.

.....

For the third month in a row we are invited to cross the Benicia-Martinez Bridge and join Frank Beyer on a field trip. This time we will go to the Vallejo parks (Blue Rock Springs, Lake Chabot - Vallejo's, not Oakland's), the marshes by the A-G-E store, and other enticing birding spots. Frank has asked us to meet at 9 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, near the Mobil station on the frontage road off the Benicia-Vallejo Freeway. Take the L Street exit. The meeting spot is on Southhampton Bay, near the Benicia State Park, and we will do some birding there before forming a caravan to go to Blue Rock Springs and other places. You can expect a mixture of shorebirds and landbirds in various habitat during the day.

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The second Audubon Wildlife Film of the season is entitled, 'Filming in No-Man's Land'. I don't think it's a war movie or a plug for Women's Lib. It's supposed to be a study of animal behaviour by five ol' chaps from Oxford. The narration is by John Paling, who will take you into the 'no man's land of animal relationships and nature photography'.

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Those members who stayed home from the October meeting because it was a 'mystery program' were the losers. President Bob McCarthy had said we would have a good program - and it was. Frank Beyer presented another of his excellent shows: a collection of slides of California wildflowers, from the seashore to the mountains. Frank did not hesitate to show fairly common plants, revealing delicate structures that so many of us fail to see. A feature of his mastery was his ability to give a general view of a cluster of flowers and then zoom in with subsequent pictures to show exquisite detail.

.....

Two field trips have been held this season and both were well attended. The first went to Tubbs Island on Sept. 18th, and Leader Frank Beyer says,

"19 Members and 3 guests of Mt. Diablo Audubon, and 10 members and 3 guests of Napa-Solano Audubon, watched thousands of shorebirds and other waterfowl come in off the mud flats. The highlight of the trip was a Baird's Sandpiper, which is a rarity. The number of Kites seen (16) was ten less than last year's count. The following 45 species were noted:

"Western Grebe; Great Blue Heron; Common & Snowy Egrets; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged & Cinnamon Teals; Shoveler; Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed Kite; Marsh & Sparrow Hawks; Pheasant; Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Baird's, Least & Western Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Avocet; Northern Phalarope; Ring-billed & Western Gulls; Forster's, Common, & Caspian Terns; Mourning Dove; Vaux's Swift; Kingfisher; Say's Phoebe; Barn Swallow; Crow; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Loggerhead Shrike; Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; Savannah, Song, & White-crowned Sparrows".

The second field trip was to Conn Dam and Lake Hennessey on October 9th. Again Frank was the leader, and his report says,

"We had a very enjoyable trip. The weather was perfect, the birds cooperative, and 45 species presented themselves to the 23 members there to view them. We even enjoyed some of Harry Couden's puns. Here is the bird list:

"Pied-billed Grebe; Double-cr. Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Mallard; Pintail; (Green-winged?) Teal; (Lesser?) Scaup; Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Coot; Killdeer; Ring-billed Gull; Kingfisher; Flicker; Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpeckers; Black Phoebe; Scrub Jay; Raven; Crow; Titmouse; Bushtit; White-br. Nuthatch; Wrentit; Long-billed Marsh, Bewick's, & Rock Wrens; Swainson's Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-cr. Kinglet; Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Audubon's & Townsends (?) Warblers; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; Meadowlark; Western Tanager; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhees; White-cr., Golden, Fox, & Song Sparrows.

"In addition we also enjoyed the following butterflies: Monarch, Lorquin's Admiral, California Sister; Satyr (?) Anglewing; Painted Lady; Tiger Swallowtail; Buckeye; and several others I couldn't identify."

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Frank Beyer says that he is leading the Napa-Solano group to GrayLodge Refuge on Saturday, Nov. 20th. Mt. Diablo Audubon members are welcome to come along. There might be other birders there, since Madrone and Golden Gate Audubon's are planning trips to the refuges that weekend.



Let's not force Frank Beyer to lead all the trips, just because he is Field Trip Chairman! Contact him at one of the meetings or by phone (707-644-0236) and volunteer to lead a trip or two. Remember that some members prefer a Sunday trip, but Frank has to confine himself to Saturday trips, so maybe you can lead a Sunday jaunt sometime.

Likewise, you can do a good deed by volunteering to help with the annual Christmas Count, which will be coming up soon. Lynn Farrar, who has managed the Count for several years, would like to step down as Organizer and Compiler. Call Bob McCarthy (934-2724) and offer to help!

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The first Audubon Wildlife Film of the season was on British Columbia and narrated by Wilfred Gray's soundtrack. It was an interesting blend of scenery, people, birds, and animals ... everything from the annual bathtub race between Nanaimo and Vancouver to ranching in the Cariboo. Synchronization enabled us to relate bird calls with the birds.

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#### Observations:

Frank Beyer reports seeing 150 White Pelicans in the salt ponds off the Sears Point road in mid-October.

Ann Cavanagh is sure that she and her son spotted a Tennessee Warbler along the Silverado Trail in Napa County recently. She says that the species has been observed in Santa Rosa at times.

Betty Adamson observed an item in the 'Contra Costa Times' claiming that the Elf Owl could "possibly be seen" in this county. Betty pointed out that the nearest Elf Owl is probably 400 miles away. The columnist backtracked and admitted that what he meant was a Pigmy Owl, since one was seen recently near Pleasanton.

A picture on Golden Gate Audubon's 'Gull' recently was taken by Seward Whitehead and shows the White Ibis that attracted attention near San Rafael during the summer.

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For years the East Bay Regional Park District has been trying to gain title to 360 acres of Federal land near the Nortonville coal mines as the nucleus of a proposed park in the area. Blocking the move has been claims by Steven Kosanke of La Sal, Utah, who wants to mine the high-quality silica sand in the park area for sale to the glass making industries. Last month the U.S. Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals in Washington, D.C. reversed a previous ruling by a local Bureau of Land Management hearing examiner and upheld Kosanke's claims. Further legal attempts to stall the proposed mining venture are expected.

Bob McCarthy says he has heard that National Audubon has recently been given 120 acres near Mammoth Lake plus a million and a half dollar endowment for upkeep. It is hoped that the area, complete with cabins, oiled roads, water, etc., can be used as a study camp.

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The Sacramento Bee, Public Relations Department, 21st and Q, Sacramento, Ca., 95814 has available for \$2.50 (includes tax and postage) a booklet called BIRDS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA. This is a compilation of illustrated articles written by Edwin R. Pickett about 160 birds. If you send for a booklet, make checks payable to The Sacramento Bee.

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# The Quail

BULLETIN OF THE MT. DIABLO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94597

P.O. Box 53

Pres: Bob McCarthy  
P.O. Box 41  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94597  
Phone: 934-2724

(Next Deadline: Dec. 15)

December, 1971  
Vol. 18, No. 6

- Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m. Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Paul Covel speaks on 'Waterfowl Problems & Management'.
- Next Field Trip: Saturday, Dec. 4 (weather permitting). Rodeo Lagoon. Meet at the Fort Cronkhite tunnel at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Frank Beyer (phone: 707-644-0236).
- Christmas Count: Sunday, Dec. 26. Contact Lynn Farrar (283-3938) for assignments and information regarding the count and potluck dinner.
- Next Screen Tour: Thursday, Jan. 27, 1972. Buzz Moss will take us to 'Mule Deer Country'.  
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Bob McCarthy has lined up Paul F. Covel to speak to us at our December 2 meeting, which will be held at 8 p.m. in Sun Valley Meeting Room B. Mr. Covel is well known for his work as Naturalist at the Lake Merritt bird sanctuary in Oakland and is regarded as one of the leading conservationists in the Bay Area. He will speak on 'Waterfowl Problems and Management', drawing on his experiences at Lake Merritt. He is an excellent speaker, so we can promise you an interesting program.

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Frank Beyer has volunteered to lead a field trip to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County the following Saturday, Dec. 4, but the trip will be cancelled in case of rain. (Call Frank at 707-644-0236 if you don't know what constitutes 'rain'.) He will have to leave for home right after lunch and hopes that some volunteer leader will take over and find the birds Frank misses. "We make no predictions on total number of species or rarities to be seen at this time, as we are outside our home grounds", says Frank. It's probable that the group will go to the Audubon Sanctuary near Tiburon after birding Rodeo Lagoon.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the east entrance of the Fort Cronkhite tunnel. To get there, cross the Golden Gate Bridge and take the Sausalito turnoff just north of Vista Point. Follow the signs to Forts Barry and Cronkhite. Meet at the signal-lighted tunnel.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Christmas Count this year will be held on Sunday, Dec. 26, the day after you get your Christmas presents. Lynn Farrar has agreed to head the count again - but he vows that this is the last time! Groups will go out and count all the birds and species they see in sectors of a circle having a 15-mile diameter. Call Lynn (283-3938) for an assignment to a team. You don't have to be an expert birder - just have some eyes and be able to count. Rain or shine or snow we go out ... and generally the survivors have a good time.

Lynn will tell you where the potluck-dinner-summation meeting will be - if there is one. Care to volunteer a home? Let him know. He might also appreciate a little help on the compilation bookwork later.

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At our November meeting Chris Nelson told of his trip to Washington D.C., where he was one of the three Bay Area conservationists who testified before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in favor of creating a South S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Chris told us, "There was a tremendous response by the committee members, and Assistant Interior Secretary Reed came out strongly in support of the proposal". Chris said that he was told that no refuge proposal has ever had such strong backing from citizens.

President Bob McCarthy read a letter from Mrs. Nancy Sarkany of Danville urging our support of HR 10482, which would extend the protection to hawks now given to eagles. We voted to write her a letter expressing our opposition to falconry.

It was voted to pledge some funds to help Pres. McCarthy attend the Audubon Asilomar Conference, March 25-28. Incidentally, you do not have to be an Audubon member to attend. You can get information from AUDUBON CONFERENCE, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, Ca. 95825.

The feature program of the evening was the showing of an excellent film, 'The Way of a Trout', which contained some of the finest underwater shots ever made. It's a wonder a fish lives long enough to be caught by a man!

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The November field trip was held the following Saturday. According to Leader Frank Beyer it was a success, and he further reports:

"The Vallejo trip was well attended (24 persons), the weather perfect as predicted, and the birds cooperative to the extent that 13 species more than the guaranteed 50 were seen. This does not include the rare and confusing Peligoose, or Goolican, which changed from a Snow Goose to a White Pelican when we weren't looking. The Trip Leader demonstrated the technique of rail-walking, producing 3 of these elusive creatures - one Clapper Rail and 2 smaller very dark-colored birds. These the Trip Leader regretfully admitted were nearly full-grown Virginia Rails (based on bill length and leg color) rather than the Black Rails some wished to believe.

"The following species were seen: Eared, Pied-billed & Western Grebes; White Pelican; Common & Snowy Egrets; Bittern; Mallard; Gadwall; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Shoveler; \* Ring-necked Duck (5); Canvasback; Lesser Scaup; Ruddy Duck; Turkey Vulture; White-tailed

Kite; Red-tailed & Sparrow Hawks; \* Clapper Rail (1); \* Virginia Rail (2); Coot; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; Common Snipe; Long-billed Curlew; Willet; Dunlin; Western Sandpiper; Marbled Godwit; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California & Ring-billed Gulls; Mourning Dove; Belted Kingfisher; Redshafted Flicker; \* Western Kingbird (1); Black & Say's Phoebes; Scrub Jay; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipet; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; Meadowlark; Red-winged & Brewer's Blackbirds; House Finch; American & Lesser Goldfinches; Rufous-sided & Brown Towhees; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned & Song Sparrows". (Note: \* means notable finds).

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Chris Nelson jubilantly announces that AB 925 has been signed by Lt. Gov. Reinecke, giving the East Bay Regional Park District an extra 5¢ per \$100 assessed valuation, of which 4¢ will go for land and 1¢ for development, with assurances that later another 5¢ can be added if the District adopts a master plan for development. Chris personally thanks all members who helped convince the Legislature of the 5¢ need.

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Observations:

Jean Richmond reported seeing 17 Clapper Rails and 3 Virginia Rails on Alameda's south shore.

Ed Eichstedt says that he, Larry Curl & Bill Pursell spotted a wandering Northern Shrike at the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor.

Margaret & Ralph Hodgson recently returned from a delightful month trip to New England, the high point being a cruise from Boothbay Harbor (Maine) into the Atlantic and up the Kennebec River and back through the turbulent Hell's Gates. On the cruise they had the pleasure of seeing two osprey nests - one atop a channel marker - and two Bald Eagles.

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Word has been received that some of our long-time members have left the smog in our area for clearer skies. Thus,

Roy & Elsie Glotfelty now look for mail on Star Route 3, Pioneer, Calif. 95666, one mile off Highway 88 above Jackson;

And Ferd Ruth has switched his title and address to Science Director, Santa Catalina School, Monterey, Ca. 93940. He says we ought to have a field trip down there some time. (An A+ idea!)

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Here are some more recent members that we haven't had space to welcome officially in 'The Quail' until now:

from Concord: Myrtle Adams; Charles Cavanagh; Mrs. J.L. Dana; Kenneth Gates; Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Knize; Stephen Peck; Mr. & Mrs. James T. Lawrence; Mary Lee Randles; and Kenneth Rishell.

from Pleasant Hill: Mr. & Mrs. M.J. Fisher; Dr. Martin Stuart;

from Martinez: Mrs. Sylva Dajani; Alex McBride; S.M. Roberts; and James S. Smyth.

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Now it's the time of the year for 'The Quail' staff to wish you all a  
MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jon & Betty Williams  
& Family (Mailers)

Ed Mize (Editor)  
1255 Mt. Diablo St. Concord, Ca 94518